

Your Honor

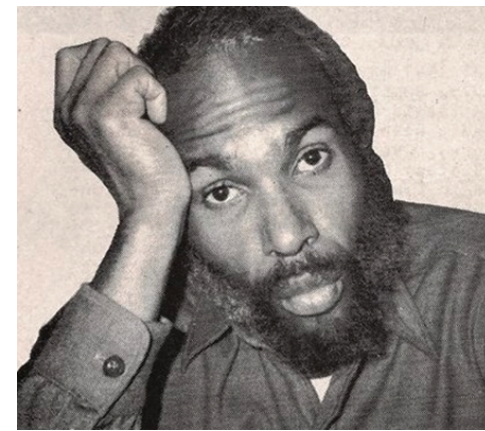


By Kuwasi Balagoon

“Of all ideologies, anarchy is the one that addresses liberty and equalitarian relations in a realistic and ultimate fashion. It is consistent with each individual having an opportunity to live a complete and total life. With anarchy, the society as a whole not only maintains itself at an equal expense to all, but progresses in a creative process unhindered by any class, caste or party. This is because the goals of anarchy don’t include replacing one ruling class with another, neither in the guise of a fairer boss or as a party.”

-Kuwasi Balagoon

your honor
since i've been convicted of murder
and have taken time to digest
just what that means
after noting what it means to my family
and how it affects people who read the newspapers
and all
i see now that i've made a terrible mistake!
and didn't approach this trial
in a respectful, deliberate or thoughtful manner
didn't take advantage of the best legal advice
and based my actions on irrelevant matters
which i can see now in a much more sober mind
had nothing to do with this case
i must have been legally insane thinking about:
the twenty five murders of children in atlanta since
Wayne Williams' capture
the recent murder of a man in boston by the police
the recent murders of two in chicago by police
the shooting of a five-year-old little boy in suburban
calif
the lynchings in alabama
the mob murder of a transit worker in brooklyn
the murders of fourteen women in boston
feeling that this is evidence of something
and that there must
be a lesson in all this — i thought
murder was legal



Kuwasi Balagoon was a bisexual New Afrikan anarchist, Black Panther, and Black Liberation Army member born in 1946 in Maryland. After being radicalized by race riots in his home state and his experience serving in the US Army, he would move to New York and work with local Afrocentrist groups in Harlem. He would soon join the Black Panther Party and was arrested as part of the Panther 21 case. He would be imprisoned in 1971 and becoming disillusioned with the Black Panther Party, began to look ideologically to anarchism as a response. This turn would also lead him to join the Black Liberation Army. He would escape twice before being captured after the Brinks robbery in 1981 and died from complications from AIDS in prison in 1986. His poems, letters, theory, and life can be found in

*"A Soliders Story"
Kuwasi Balagoon*



[https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/
kuwasi-balagoon-a-soldier-s-story](https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/kuwasi-balagoon-a-soldier-s-story)